

Letter to the Editor

The hemagglutinin-esterase gene in human coronaviruses SARS-CoV-2, HKU1 and OC43

Dear Editor,

A recent article published in European Review for Medical and Pharmacological Sciences journal, mistakenly called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as virus name¹, while the name of novel coronavirus 2019 according to WHO report is *Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-related Coronavirus 2* (SARS-CoV-2)² and the abbreviation of disease name is COVID-19^{3,4}.

In addition, the authors reported that the SARS-CoV-2 has hemagglutinin esterase gene (HE), which can encode the hemagglutinin-esterase glycoprotein¹. For this claim, however, they cite a related study⁵, but there is not any evidence on HE gene in that mention study⁵. So the Kannan et al¹ does not cover this topic based on the available references⁶⁻⁸ that reported the complete sequencing genome and genes of SARS-CoV-2. Therefore, according to the evidence the SARS-CoV-2 does not have the HE gene and not coding hemagglutinin-esterase glycoprotein.

In conclusion, although there is a hemagglutinin-esterase gene in human coronaviruses such as HKU1⁹ and OC43¹⁰, there is not this gene and its protein in SARS-CoV-2 based on available data and sources.

Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

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